

SHRI BIREN ROY: Has the Government any concrete plans to put up petro-chemical industry in all the refineries of the public sector to produce synthetic rubber, and, if so, when are these steps to be taken—in the Third Plan or the fourth Plan?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: As I said, we propose to establish petro-chemical complex around the refineries. Some people have been licensed already in Bombay. It is also proposed to have petro-chemical complex around our public sector refinery at Koyali in Gujarat.

*333. [Transferred to the 10th December, 1963.]

SAVING OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE BY NATIONAL LABORATORIES

*334. SHRI A. D. MANI: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether an estimate has been made by his Ministry of the saving of foreign exchange effected by the national laboratories as a result of the new techniques and initiative in industries;

(b) whether it is a fact that the estimate has been placed at Rs. 19-20 crores; and

(c) if so, the basis on which this estimate was made?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI M. C. CHAGLA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir, but the estimate is purely tentative as no exact estimate can be made of the savings of foreign exchange, since activities of the National Laboratories/ Institutes help directly and indirectly in saving foreign exchange by way of—

(i) Design and fabrication of research and testing equipment which would have to be otherwise imported;

(ii) Evolving of processes by which imported materials may be

•substituted by indigenous materials which not only leads to saving foreign exchange but also to the development of new patterns of utilisation of resources in the country; and

(iii) Acting as consultants to industries and supplying design data, project reports, blue prints, etc., in the absence of which the industries would have to pay fees to foreign consultants.

SHRI A. D. MANI: It has been claimed by the Ministry in the Press that new techniques in coal washing, coal blending and coal carbonisation were processed through by the Council. How many of these techniques have been adopted by the coal industry?

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: I do not understand whatever has been said but I do not think it is connected with this question,

SHRI A. D. MANI: I will read out the claim. It says:

"The work of national laboratories saved about Rs. 20 crores of foreign exchange in 12 years since the first laboratory was set up in 1950, according to a survey published in New Delhi on Friday reports PTI."

It goes on to say:

"New techniques in coal washing, coal blending and coal carbonisation or ore beneficiation and processing the techniques and researches developed for road building, researches which have helped the progress of the tanning industry in production and export and improved process of parboiling paddy are some of the main features of the work of CSIR laboratories."

This has been stated in the claim. I want to ask this question if this claim is to be sustained, how many of these techniques which the laborator-

ies have processed are being adopted by the industries concerned?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: In fairness, the question should be put to me, not to the Education Minister.

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: With your permission, may I try and answer it? I can assure my hon. friend that the industries in India are very grateful for the help and advice that these laboratories have been giving. There is constant contact between the laboratories and the industries and by the existence of these laboratories, the industries have saved a lot of foreign exchange because, but for it, they would have had to import various things which is no longer necessary for them to do.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So you are satisfied that these are used . . .

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: They are being used, undoubtedly. I have not got the information but if he wants, I will get it.

SHRI A. D. MANI: I would like to put a second question. The claim has been made that Rs. 20 crores have been saved. It has also been stated publicly that this is a rough estimate and they have not worked out the details. If a statement is to be made in public by a Ministry that it has achieved a saving of Rs. 20 crores of foreign exchange, we are entitled to ask how many of these techniques have been patented. At least that information the Minister can give.

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: If we are to work it out, it will mean tremendous details but if the hon. Member wants those details, I will do my best to supply him with those figures.

SHRI A. D. MANI: I would like to have those figures.

SHRI BIREN ROY: Will he place it on the Table?

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: I will place it in the Library.

SHRI K. SANTHANAM: May I know if it is not a fact that adequate arrangements do not exist to-day for having pilot plants for the techniques evolved by these national laboratories to try them out on a commercial scale?

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: I want to assure my hon. friend that we are doing our very best, as I said, to maintain the contact and liaison between the industry and the laboratories. It will benefit the industries on the one hand and the laboratories on the other. That is the only way in which things have been worked out in the U.S. and in England. There is constant contact. The industry goes to the laboratory and says: 'Here we have a project, work it out' and the laboratory works it out and gives the result to the industry. If it is not fully developed here, I will assure my hon. friend that we will try and see that this contact and this liaison is kept up.

SHRI K. SANTHANAM: May I know if the hon. Minister will ascertain from the national laboratories how many formulae have not been tried out in that manner?

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: If the hon. Member wants these figures, I will try and lay a comprehensive statement before the House which will answer the two questions raised by my two hon. friends.

SHRI B. K. P. SINHA: May I know if it has been brought to the notice of the Government that many patents taken out by these national laboratories, while they have been taken up by foreign countries for the same types of industries or work, these patents are not utilised in our country and the Government are issuing licences for processes which we have to get from other countries?

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: I should have thought that it is a compliment to our scientists and laboratories that foreign countries should use our pat-

etis but I agree that our own industrialists should also use them.

SHRI N. C. KASLIWAL: If my information is correct, Prof. Blackett was asked some time ago to go into the work of the national laboratories and he suggested certain new techniques. Is the Minister in a position to state whether any of those new techniques which he suggested are being utilised or have proved useful to the industry?

SHRI M. C. CHAGLA: It is much too detailed a question. May I tell my hon. friend that a Reviewing Committee is now working on these things and we hope to get a report very soon in regard to this. But if the hon. Member writes to me, and wants positive detailed information, I shall be only too happy to supply to him.

*335. [The questioner (Shri Babu-bhai hi. Chinai) was absent. For answer, vide col. 2224 infra.]

*336. [The questioner (Shri Faridul Haq Ansari) was absent. For answer, vide cols. 2224-25 infra.]

CHANGE OF POLICY IN OIL PRODUCTION

*337. SHRI N. C. KASLIWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is going to be a change in Government's policy in regard to oil production; and

(b) whether it is proposed to vary the agreements entered into with private companies in respect of refineries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) These companies have offered to terminate the existing refinery agreements with them subject to certain conditions. These offers are under examination.

SHRI N. C. KASLIWAL: What are those conditions under which they propose to terminate these agreements?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: These things are at present the subject-matter of talks between the Government and these companies. Mainly they relate to the following use of indigenous crude by the refineries, export of sui-pais products, obtaining crude supplies from sources of the companies' choice and the prices to be paid therefor, and equality of treatment with other refineries. These are the matters about which talks are going on.

SHRI N. C. KASLIWAL: May I know whether the initiative for the termination of these agreements came from the companies or from the Government?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Some time last year, in May 1962, they came forward with certain proposals that they would terminate their agreements provided there were many things done but the chief thing was that they would terminate the agreements provided they were permitted to expand the capacity of the refineries further. The matter did not proceed further. Recently I told them that they should de-link the question of expansion and come forward to terminate the refinery agreement and in that context they wanted certain safeguards that I just now informed the House of. So I should say now that they have come forward on their own to terminate the agreements.

SHRI BIREN ROY: On a question previously asked by me in respect of these agreements when these were made and the officers who were responsible for these agreements, there was an answer here in this House that as the agreements had been made we could not go behind those agreements and immediately after that the companies made an offer that they will not export all the profits from here and as they were making